

Quarry Bank Urban District Council.



Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector,

For the Year 1925.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE QUARRY
BANK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

The Report for 1925 is extended under the instructions of the Ministry of Health into a Quinquennial Survey Report, detailing more fully the matters usually comprised in the intervening years, and giving an account of the physical features and social conditions of the district, in so far as may be necessary for the guidance of the Ministry as well as of your Council. Much of it may therefore appear quite redundant to those who are familiar with the district.

I. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population estimated to middle of 1925	...	...	8631
Area in acres, exclusive of area covered by water	...	...	665
Rateable Value (Poor rate), 1925	...	...	£14805
Sum represented by a penny rate (General District Rate), 1925	...	...	£44

Census figures tabulated.

1921 Census

Buildings in course of erection	...	65
Buildings not for habitation	...	32
Structurally separate sets of premises intended for use or used for habitation	...	1596
No. of separate occupiers	...	1620
Males	...	3864
Females	...	3960
Persons	...	7824
Average No. of persons per house	...	4.89
(On official population, 503)		
Rooms	...	6257
Visitors	...	18
Official population	...	8030

The official population is calculated from the actual census count by deducting visitors to, and adding estimated number of visitors temporarily away from Quarry Bank.

The latter figure is obtained by proportionate distribution of the total number of visitors in the whole country. The number for Quarry Bank is therefore 224. Thus: Total count, 7824—18 visitors + 224 absentees = 8030, the official population.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

Quarry Bank consists of two parts, an elevated plateau—of which Mount Pleasant is the chief part—and a long slope thence Southward to the River Stour. On this slope the largest part of the town is built, having therefore a Southern aspect. The main thoroughfare runs through the middle of the plateau and the slope, and from this streets go at right angles on either side in such a manner, that for at least 75 per cent of the dwellings, surface drainage has a good natural fall towards the river. On nearly all sides of this populated area, are broad belts of meadow and wood-

land, in which are dotted hamlets, containing 10 to 15 per cent of the total population. Even in the town many of the houses have large gardens, and there are no slums in which ventilation is seriously impeded. Geologically the surface is mainly of clay in the upper part of the district, whilst in the remainder it is more or less sandy. In the South and Southwest there are valuable beds of fire clay, and throughout the district are coal beds, lying rather shallow under the town, but deeper elsewhere. The fire clay is still abundant, but the coal, except where the mining rights have been purchased by the property owners, is now so far exhausted as to render coal mining unprofitable, and it has been abandoned. Subsidence following mining have damaged and distorted much of the house property, and jeopardised the gas and water mains and sewers.

Social Conditions.—These may be considered under three heads--

1 Housing Accommodation.—This is both inadequate and unsatisfactory. Overcrowding is very prevalent both from population and sex aspects, and in spite of the completion of a recent housing scheme, it tends to become more and more aggravated, mainly because the death rate is low in proportion to the birth rate. Sanitary progress, especially in the outlying districts, is much impeded owing to the Cottage Property system of tenure existing between the Earl of Dudley and the property owners, from which disputes arise as to responsibility for water supply and sewerage.

2 Occupations.—These are principally clay and coal mining, brick and firebrick making, and the manufacture of iron goods, especially chain, anchors, enamelled hollow-ware, and bedsteads, anvils and small castings, and nail making. There are no very large works in the district. The atmosphere is therefore not smoke laden, and this together with the sunny aspect of the town, gives it a reputation for salubrity in advance of most of the Black Country. Many residents are employed in neighbouring towns, especially Cradley Heath and Brierley Hill. On the whole there is nothing in the town's industries carrying any special risks to the health of the workers, and in contrast with former experience, one seldom now meets with lead poisoning among the hollow-ware makers. Along the principal streets, High Street and New Street, are many and varied shops.

3 Social Life.—As reported in 1919, the social life of the district centres chiefly round the Churches and Political Clubs. There is neither Public Hall, Institute, Cinema, Theatre nor other place of public entertainment. Gardening still forms a distinct feature, and provides much congenial exercise and recreation. There are now two resident Doctors, two Chemists' Shops, a Post and

Telephone Office and a Bank. The Brierley Hill Hospital for Infectious Diseases is situated in Quarry Bank. There is no tram, railway station or canal in the district, the nearest railway station being at Cradley Heath, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the centre of the town. On the other hand a frequent service of buses traverses the two arterial thoroughfares, High Street and Thorn's Road, linking Quarry Bank to all the surrounding towns. Since 1920, through the kindness of Mr. Ernest Stevens, the district has possessed a Park of over twenty acres, conveniently situated, a special feature of which is the abundance of ground available for sports and recreation, including cricket, football, tennis and bowls for the grown-ups, and a shallow bathing pool and sand hole for the little ones. This generous donor has recently added a magnificent band stand to his other benefactions.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The main points affecting the Vital Statistics are set out in table M 13 and table X shewn below. I have extended these tables so as to facilitate comparisons between this and the preceding five years. It is interesting to note how few deaths now occur from the Zymotic Diseases, Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria and Erysipelas, although in former times they caused considerable mortality; on the other hand, Influenza, almost absent until 1891, now claims a heavy toll, with, in the past six years, a death rate only exceeded by that from Respiratory Diseases. The extension of table X is also very instructive. The birth rate, even since so recently as 1920, has declined rapidly, the death rate following suit. The bottom line, shewing an average of ten years ending 1898, gives birth and death rates almost exactly double that of the year under review. At first sight one would reason that this leaves the population unchanged, but the disparity between 9.5 and 19.6 is much greater than between 17.5 and 38.2, namely 10 as against 20; that is, in your district of 8000 persons, a relative loss owing to these falling rates of 80 per annum. The total absence of deaths from Enteric Fever and Small Pox is also in marked contrast to one's earlier experiences. Deaths amongst infants from Diarrhœa should be avoidable under ideal sanitary conditions. Apart from Poor Law Medical Service, and a little treatment at the School and Welfare Clinics, there are no facilities locally for gratuitous medical treatment, but there is no special difficulty in securing Medical, Surgical and Specialist Treatment at the Hospitals in Dudley, Stourbridge and Birmingham. These are freely used, the necessary funds being obtained by work peoples' Contributions and a Hospital Parade Committee.

TABLE M 13 OF REGISTRAR GENERAL.
Causes of Death in
Quarry Bank Urban District, 1925.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
Civilians only		
All causes	37	45
Measles	2	1
Influenza	1	3
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	5
Other tuberculous diseases ...		1
Cancer, malignant disease ...	3	3
Diabetes	1	
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c. ...	2	3
Heart disease	2	1
Bronchitis	6	6
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	2	4
Other respiratory diseases ...		1
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)...	2	1
Appendicitis and typhlitis ...	1	
Cirrhosis of liver	1	1
Acute and chronic nephritis ...	1	
Puerperal sepsis		1
Congenital debility and Malformation, premature birth ...	1	2
Suicide	1	
Other defined diseases ...	10	12
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age		
Total	7	6
Illegitimate	2	0
TOTAL BIRTHS		
Legitimate	93	76
Illegitimate	—	—
Population, (for Births and Deaths)	8631	

Table for comparing deaths during last 6 years.

Causes	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
All causes	106	84	90	78	87	82	
Measles	4	...	...	10	...	3	
Whooping Cough	2	2	3	...	3	...	
Diphtheria	...	1	...	...	1	...	
Influenza	14	4	11	2	18	4	53
Tuberculosis of Resp. System	7	8	5	5	4	6	
Tubercular Meningitis	1	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	1	1	2	2	1	1	
Cancer (Malig. Disease)	4	8	9	10	7	6	44
Diabetes	...	...	1	1	1	1	
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	6	4	5	2	5	
Heart Disease	6	7	10	6	10	3	42
Arterio Sclerosis	...	...	...	2	1	...	
Bronchitis	13	12	8	6	11	12	62
Pneumonia	10	6	5	5	...	6	32
Other Respiratory Disease	...	1	...	...	4	1	
Ulcer of Stomach, etc.	...	1	1	...	...	...
Diarrhœa (under 2)	2	1	1	...	1	3	
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...	...	1	...	2	
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	1	2	...	...	1	
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	3	1	
Puerperal Sepsis	...	1	...	1	...	1	
Partuition apart from Puerpural Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility, etc.	9	5	7	6	4	3	34
Suicide	...	...	...	1	...	1	
Other Deaths from Violence	4	3	3	3	6	...	
Other defined diseases	26	16	18	12	10	22	
Deaths under 1 Year	Total 25	15	22	10	12	13	
	Illegitimate	1	...	...	...	2	
Births.	Total 233	234	214	179	191	169	
„	Legimate 227	230	211	173	183	169	
„	Illegitimate 6	4	3	6	8	0	
Population	7904	8030	8175	8311	8414	8631	

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS 1925.

Births :

	Total.	Males.	Females.	} Birth rate (R.G.) 19.6
Legitimate	169	93	76	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	

Deaths : 84 37 45 Death rate (R.G.) 9.5

Number of women dying of or in consequence of child birth: 1

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age, per 1000 births :

Legitimate, 76 ; illegitimate, 1 ; total ... 77

Deaths from measles (all ages) per 1000 births ... 17

" " Whooping Cough (all ages) per 1000 births 0

" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years) per 1000 births 17

Table shewing causes of Infantile Deaths under 1 year, 1925.

Premature Birth	...	1	Influenza	...	1
Bronchitis	...	2	Pneumonia	...	2
Dyspepsia	...	1	Impetigo Contagiosa	...	1
Diarrhoea	...	2			
Convulsions	...	1			
Measles	...	1			
					Total 12

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Table of Diseases notified during the year 1925.

Disease	Total 1925	Case per 1000 living in Quarry Bank	Case per 1000 living in England and Wales	Total deaths Quarry Bank
Small Pox	0	0.00	0.14	0
Diphtheria	14	1.61	1.23	0
Scarlet Fever	8	0.92	2.36	0
Enteric Fever, including (Paratyphoid)	0	0.0	0.07	0
Puerperal Fever	1	0.11	0.06	1
Pneumonia	10	1.15	...	6
Erysipelas	2	0.23	0.39	1
Malaria	0	...	...	0
Tuberculosis :				
Pulmonary { Male	2	...	...	1
Female	8	...	...	5
Non-pulmonary { Male	3	...	...	0
Female	1	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	...	...	0
Anterio Poliomyelitis	1	...	...	0

TABLE X.—Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

	BIRTH RATE PER 1000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.							RATE PER 1000 BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.				
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under Two Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Causes of Death certified by Registered Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales ...	18·3	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·13	0·03	0·15	0·07	0·32	0·47	8·4	75	92·1	6·9	1·0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	18·8	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·17	0·03	0·18	0·09	0·30	0·43	10·8	79	92·1	7·3	0·6
157 Smaller Towns (1921 adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000)	18·3	11·2	0·01	0·00	0·15	0·02	0·14	0·06	0·31	0·38	7·6	74	93·0	5·9	1·1
London ...	18·0	11·7	0·01	0·00	0·08	0·02	0·19	0·11	0·23	0·46	10·6	67	91·1	8·9	0·0
Quarry Bank 1925 ...	19·6	9·5	0·00	0·00	0·34	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·46	0·11	17·7	77	98·8	1·2	0·0
" 1924 ...	22·7	10·3	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·35	0·12	2·14	0·70	5·2	63	93·3	6·7	0·0
" 1923 ...	21·5	9·4	0·00	0·00	1·23	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·24	0·48	00·0	56	91·0	8·9	0·0
" 1922 ...	26·0	11·0	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·37	0·00	1·34	0·37	4·7	70	90·2	9·8	0·0
" 1921 ...	28·6	10·4	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·24	0·12	0·50	0·38	4·2	64	96·5	3·5	0·0
" 1920 ...	29·5	13·4	0·00	0·00	0·50	0·00	0·25	0·00	1·77	0·50	8·6	107	93·4	6·6	0·0
Q.B. Average of 10 years, 1889-98.	38·2	17·5										158			

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDIZED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY OR COUNTY COUNCIL, AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Tuberculosis.—None, other than those of the Staffordshire Joint Committee situated at Prestwood, Kinver and Himley, in South Staffordshire, and Groundslow, Stanfield and Yarnfield, in North Staffordshire.

For Maternity.—None.

For Children.—None.

Smallpox and Fever.—Until August 1923, the district was joint owner of the Joint Isolation Hospital of the Quarry Bank and Brierley Hill Urban District, situated in Quarry Bank, which had 18 beds. Owing to the fact that Quarry Bank seldom made use of the Hospital, the Council decided in August to withdraw, leaving as the sole owners the Brierley Hill Urban District. You have since made arrangements, for the reception of Smallpox cases into the Joint Smallpox Boards Hospital at Moxley, distance about 7 miles from the district; and of other infectious cases, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria into the Stourbridge and District Joint Isolation Hospital situated near Halesowen, and about four miles from the district. Ambulance and disinfection facilities are provided by these Hospitals respectively.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children in the district.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, &c., IN THE DISTRICT.

Professional nursing in the Home :—

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------|
| (a) | General | None provided. |
| (b) | Infectious Diseases
the County Council would provide a nurse to assist
in the case of Measles. | When required |

MIDWIVES.

There are only three midwives residing in the district. The Public Health Authority now makes no grant in aid of Nursing or Midwifery Services.

Two or three other midwives occasionally, but very seldom, attend cases in the district.

Ambulance Facilities :—

(a) For infectious cases—see remarks above.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases, there is none provided directly by the Council, but the Motor Ambulance of Rowley Regis, the adjoining district, serves this district when required at an arranged cost. The friendly societies contribute annually to this.

I have collated the figures as to infectious diseases and hospital isolation since your Infection Hospital was first opened in 1893. It was originally intended for smallpox only, but other diseases were admitted later, namely, Enteric Fever first in 1895, Scarlet Fever in 1899, and Diphtheria in 1911.

The following tables summarise the facts :—

CASES NOTIFIED.

	Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric.	Total.
1893-1902	46	456	15	188	705
1903-1912	23 all in 1903.	356	49	34	462
1913-1922	0	195	75	4	274
1923	0	21	6	1	28
1924	0	15	10	1	26
1925	0	8	14	0	22

CASES IN HOSPITAL.

1893-1902	28	2	0	65	95	} Merry Hill Hospital.
1903-1912	23	12	10	17	62	
1913-1922	0	16*	3	1	20	
1923	0	0	0	0	0	} Hales-owen Hospital.
1924	0	0	0	0	0	
1925	0	0	2	0	2	

*13 of these were in 1914.

Admitted last cases in :—

1903	1914	1925	1917.
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TOTAL DEATHS 1912-1925, IN DISTRICT.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric.	
Total for 10 years,				
1913-1922	5	4	1	
1923	0	0	0	
1924	0	1	0	
1925	0	0	0	
	—	—	—	
Totals for 13 years	5	5	1	= 11.

LABORATORY WORK.

Bacteriological Examinations are made free of cost to the public through the Staffordshire County Council Bacteriological Department.

This Department has recently increased its scope so as now to include practically all classes of Bacteriological, Chemical and Pathological Investigations likely to be of service to the General Practitioner, at whose disposal they are placed free of charge for Staffordshire patients, in all matters relating to the Public Health Service. I am not aware how far this has been made use of in Quarry Bank, as I only receive information respecting Tubercle, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever. In my own practice it has been distinctly helpful, and should become more so when one is familiar with its possibilities. The following are the returns for the year.

Results, 1925.

	Positive.		Negative.		Total.
Tubercle	1	...	8	...	9
Diphtheria	19	...	62	...	81
Enteric	0	...	1	...	1
					—
					91

The nearest supply of Botulism anti-toxin is in charge of the Medical Officer of Health, Birmingham.

CHEMICAL WORK.

Chemical Work would usually be referred to the County Analyst, but none has been required during the year.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

	Name	Situation	Accommodation	By Whom Provided
Maternity and Child Welfare Centre ...	none	New Street	Primitive Methodist School	County Council
Day Nursery ...	none			
School Clinic ...	New Street	New Street	Primitive Methodist School	County Education Authority
Tuberculosis ...	Dudley Dispensary	Parsons Street Dudley	Special Building	Joint Committee Staffordshire County Council
Venereal Diseases ...		Corbett Hospital Amblecote Guest Hospital Dudley	Hospital Out-patients Hospital	County Council

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS, AND REGULATIONS IN FORCE.

- (1) Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890. All Sections.
- (2) Housing of Working Classes Act, 1890. Part III. No Bye-laws.
- (3) Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Parts II., III., and V.
- (4) Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order. Regulations established under this Order.
- (5) Part III, Sections of Part II and IV, and Part VI, of the Public Health Acts Amendments Act, 1907 (certain sections being modified according to local requirements).

The Council's Bye-laws with respect to New Streets and Buildings were revoked on December 4th, 1924. New Bye-laws have the sanction of the Ministry and will come in force in 1926.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

- 1 Medical Officer of Health, part time. Diploma, D.P.H.
- 2 Sanitary Inspector, who also acts as Surveyor, whole time. Diploma, R.S.I.

A contribution is received from the Treasury towards the salaries of both these officers.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply.

This is almost exclusively by two Public Water Companies who maintain a regular and ample delivery, namely :—

(1)	South Staffs. Water Works Co.	Total connections	1618
(2)	Stourbridge District Water Board.	„ „	13
Total			<u>1631</u>

The Engineer in Chief of the South Staffs Water Co., has kindly supplied me with the following information in relation to their supply.

- (a) The supply is constant.
- (b) The source generally is from deep wells and bore holes from the New Red Sandstone, and the possibility of contamination is extremely remote.

(c) The water has no Plumbo Solvent action.

(d) A Typical Analysis is approximately as below.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS (Expressed in parts per 10,000).

Total Solids (dried at 100° C.)	...	...	28.3
Chlorides, expressed as Chlorine	...	...	2.8
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	None
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	0.0008
Oxidised Nitrogen	...	...	0.21
Oxygen absorbed	...	...	None
Temporary hardness	...	...	8.3
Permanent hardness	...	...	7.2
Total hardness	...	...	15.5

(e) The total number of dwelling houses supplied in Quarry Bank, 1618.

From this report and from numerous analyses which I have made in time past, I think the Council may regard this supply as very satisfactory.

The total number of houses on the rate books is 1664.

At the census 1921, the number of houses in district was 1596 and 63 have been erected since that time, giving a total of 1659. There remain only 28 houses supplied otherwise than by these Water Companies. Seventeen of these at Mears Coppice, are dependant on wells, or water carried from a distance. In spite of repeated efforts on the part of the Council to instal a public water supply, it has so far been impossible to determine whether the cost should be borne by the owner-tenant or the ground landlord, as the tenancy is one of cottage property, in which the overlord appears to have absolute right to appropriate or destroy the property without compensation. The owners are now much more disposed to seek a solution and to bear some of the cost, so that the difficulty may soon be solved. It required an epidemic of Enteric Fever in 1895 to convince the then Quarry Bank Authorities that well water was very expensive to life and purse, and so to close the wells in the town. Although this risk is at present almost overlooked, I have quite recently attended a case in another district in which well water was probably the source of infection, and this danger must remain as long as surface wells are allowed.

Rivers and Streams.—The River Stour and its tributaries receive most of the surface water from the district and undoubtedly a little sewage also finds its way into it from Quarry Bank. This ought not to be, now that there is a Sewerage Scheme available for

the district. There is more than a suspicion of considerable pollution, mostly of an industrial character, before the Stour reaches Quarry Bank, sufficient to render the water turbid, and to make fish and plant life impossible. The whole matter is at present under investigation by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Quarry Bank is one of the constituent authorities of the Upper Stour Main Sewerage Board, whose sewers discharge on to a farm six or seven miles beyond the district. Fully 80 per cent of the houses are attached to this system, but except for the New Council Houses, few connections have been made in the last five years. The following statement shews what remains to be done.

Streets wholly not Sewered.

Brook Street
Evers Street
Caledonia

Partly not Sewered.

Amblecote Road Talbot Lane
Maughan Street Coppice Lane
Sheffield Street Stour Hill
Thorns Road Brickkiln Street

Refuse and Nightsoil removal is now done by contract. The new Contractor started work in August, 1925, and is working satisfactorily. There is no destructor.

Total No. of	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1915	1912
Privy Middens	272	287	299	311	321	337	426	627
W.C's	1019	1001	987	968	890	870	717	466
	<hr/> 1291	<hr/> 1288	<hr/> 1286	<hr/> 1279	<hr/> 1211	<hr/> 1207	<hr/> 1143	<hr/> 1093
Cesspools	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
Refuse Bins	512	491	484	467	399	375	0	0

For 5 years ending December 1925, Privies Converted, 65; New W.C.s., 149; New Bins, 137.

Although the number of Water Closets is steadily increasing with a corresponding reduction of Privy Middens, a progressive district should not be content until the latter are extinct, in all except perhaps the most rural places. Even there, Water Closets, distant Cesspools, or Earth Closets, should be substituted wherever possible. It cannot be said that the present rate of conversion shews a proud or even a reasonable record of progress. Apart from the risks to health there is something most repugnant in the sight and odour of a Midden, whereas an efficient Water Closet makes a direct appeal for cleanliness and decency.

As for Bins, the best types, galvanised iron, are made in Quarry Bank and district, and the Council would do well to see their

general use encouraged. Apart from the New Council Houses the installation of baths in dwelling houses is still the exception.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

This is exhibited in the following tables :—

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK carried out in the Sanitary Inspectors' Department during period January 1st,—December 31st, 1925.

		Number of		Abatement Notices		Nuisances abated after notice by	
		Inspections & Observations made	Defects found	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority	Inspector	Authority
Dwelling-houses and Schools	{ Foul Conditions ...	279	184	125	10	108	8
	{ Structural Defects						
	{ Overcrowding ...						
	{ Unfit for Habitation						
	{ Dairies, Cowsheds	71	6	6		5	
	{ Milkshops						
	Bakehouses ...	51	6	6		6	
	Slaughter-houses ...	68	8	8		8	
	Canal Boats ...						
	Ashpits and Privies ...	132	65	45	10	36	9
House Drainage	Deposits of Refuse & Manure	22	10	10		9	
	{ Water Closets ...	89	57	46	4	42	4
	{ Defective & obstructed						
	{ Traps ...	75	26	4		4	
	{ Water Supply ...						
	Pigsties ...	78	15	12		11	
	Animals Improperly Kept ...						
	{ Offensive Trades and Fish	51	11	9		9	
	{ Shops ...						
	Smoke Nuisances...	9	6	4		3	
Totals		943	397	278	24	244	21

Smoke Abatement.—There has been no serious nuisance from smoke, except from the Brick Works. Notices were served, with the result that the trouble was remedied by the raising of the flues.

Offensive Trades.—There are five establishments for fish frying, two for tripe dressing, one for skin curing and one manure stores. They have been regularly inspected and only trivial nuisances detected.

Schools.—The sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory, their Water Closets and Urinals being fitted with flushing tanks, and the South Staffordshire water supply laid on. No general or class closure was required for Infectious Diseases, but the usual exclusion of patients and home contacts was maintained. The lists of absentees have been sent to me regularly and have frequently been of service in investigating doubtful infectious cases (see also Measles and Influenza). At the rear of the High Street Council Schools are farm premises, and during the Summer the emanations from the manure heap proved a menace to the children's health. This was removed to a distance at the request of the Inspector.

Housing.—Building has been altogether neglected in Quarry Bank, since 1922, when the 64 Council Houses in Saltwells Coppice were erected. I reported in 1920 that 300 new houses were needed for present requirements. The population was then 7,904, and is now 8,631, an increase of 727. Estimating 5 persons per house, 146 houses are needed for this increase alone. 71 only have been built, the shortage is therefore now 300 plus 75, a total of 375. The plan in 1919 for 248 new houses has so far yielded 64 erected at Saltwells Coppice, and 26 are projected for 1926, to be erected at Hammer Bank. A further site in Lower High Street, 5·3 acres in area, for 64 houses, has not yet received the sanction of the Ministry.

To pursue householders for overcrowding is rather farcical until more schemes become facts. It is quite clear that residents are loth to leave Quarry Bank, given reasonable housing accomodation.

Repairs and alterations, although often badly needed, are almost dormant. Building repairs are so costly as to make owners hold their hand, and there are very few in Quarry Bank who can afford to embark on other than profitable ventures. What seems to be needed is a return to the good times of a full day's work with a full day's pay. The psychology of the times is wrong. Work is too often pictured as undesirable and irksome, instead of being the most certain means for securing sound health, mental and physical, and almost worth while for its own sake.

Unhealthy Areas.—No special action or representations have been made under the Housing Act of 1890.

Bye-laws relating to houses (see page 13).

There are no underground sleeping rooms, houses let in lodgings, lodging houses, canal boats, or inhabited tents, vans or sheds.

New Houses erected during five years, 1920-25.

	Total	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920
Private Enterprise	7	1	1	3	2	0	0
Municipal	64	0	0	0	56	8	0
Total	71	1	1	3	58	8	0

Number in course of erection at the end of year :—

Private Enterprise	...	2
Municipal	...	26

1—Unfit dwelling houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act or Housing Acts) ... 68

(2) Number of houses which were inspected and recorded under housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 42

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 4

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-heading) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 37

2—Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notice 35

3—Action under Statutory Powers ... 0

Houses Erected or Altered, 1920-25.

1920	47, Brook Street	Rebuilt	Cooper
	18, New Street	Shop pulled down and house built upon site	Genner
1921	68A, Sheffield Street	Outbuildings converted into house	Harris
1922	Saltwells Road	64 houses	Council

Houses Erected or Altered, 1920-25 (continued).

1922	1, Evers Street	House on part of Brewery	Procter
	39, 39A, Merry Hill	One house converted into two	Foxall
	Mount Pleasant	One new house	Warwick
	63, Bower Lane	Rebuilt after being derelict	Barnes
1923	Mount Pleasant	One house converted into two	Ward
	Stour Hill	Bungalow	Little
	Mount Pleasant	New house	Raybould
	Mount Pleasant	New house	Shaw
1924	Birch Coppice	Bungalow	Homer
	High Street	Sun Inn, Rebuilt	Banks
1925	Thorns Road	New house	Stevens
1926	Evers Street	Three derelict houses, altered and rebuilt	Billingham
	Thorns Road	Two new houses	Webb
	Thorns Road	Three new houses	Banks
	Thorns Road	One new house	Cooper
	Thorns Road	Two new houses	Stevens
	Merry Hill	One new house	Hanke

**Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces
and Homework.**

1.—INSPECTION.

Premises	Number of		Prosecutions.
	Inspections	Written Notices	
Factories including Factory Laundries	78	8	
Workshops „ Workshop „	64	1	
Workplaces other than Outworkers } premises included in part 3 of this Report ... }	12	2	
Total ...	154	11	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions.
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	12	12		
Want of ventilation	4	4		
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances	1	1		
Sanitary } unsuitable	4	4		
Accommodation } not separate for sexes...				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupations of underground Bake- } houses (s. 101)				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for } Bakehouses (s.s. 97 to 100)				
Other offences excluding offences relating } to outwork which are included in part 3 } of this Report				
Total	21	21		

3—HOMEWORK.

Outworkers Lists (S. 107).

Wearing Apparel :—

Making, etc. Lists received twice in a year, Lists 0,
Contractors 0, Workmen 0.

Cables and Chains :—

Lists received twice in a year, List 4, Contractors 11
Workmen 30.

Addresses of	}	Received from other Councils	...	24
Outworkers		Forwarded to other Councils	...	2
Inspection of Outworkers Premises		...	...	36

Outworkers in Unwholesome Premises (S. 108).

Instances	...	...	...	...	0
Notices served	...	...	...	...	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Inspector reports that the milk supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality. Most of it is produced in the district and delivered direct from farm to house, but the amount brought in from outside is also considerable.

The Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops shew some definite structural improvements, but a much higher standard is desirable.

The vessels used are clean, and reserved solely for dairy purposes.

Preserved and dried milks are largely used for infants, when breast feeding is not available. Such foods lose much of their value, as the vitamins so essential to healthy growth, are almost entirely destroyed in the process of preparation, with the result that children are apt to get rickets and become prone to Bronchitis and general flabbiness. Fresh cow's milk, from healthy animals, collected with special precautions as to cleanliness, refrigerated and bottled at the farm premises, is the best substitute for breast milk, and recent regulations have this object in view. Nothing, however, can approach breast feeding both for convenience and safety.

Meat.—Meat Inspection has been regular and systematic. No diseased meat has been found or food poisoning noted. One rumoured case of poisoning from arsenically treated apples was investigated, and found without foundation. There is no public abattoir. Slaughtering on butcher's premises is done at scheduled times, and pig killing elsewhere, after given notice. No meat has been "marked." There are no meat stalls or stores. Each butcher's premises includes a refrigerator. The slaughter houses are as follows :—

	1920.	Jan. 1925.	Dec. 1925.
Registered	3	3	3
Licensed	0	0	0
	—	—	—
Total	3	3	3

Other Foods.—There are several Bakehouses, some large and well equipped. These and other premises used for food manufacture, storage or sale have been regularly inspected, but only minor defects found.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Table showing monthly incidence of all cases of Infectious Diseases Notified in 1925.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Diphtheria	1	1	1		1	2	1	2	3	4	1	1	14
Scarlet Fever	1	1							1	1			3
Puerperal Fever						1							1
Pneumonia		2	5								1	3	10
Erysipelas													2
Tuberculosis, M							1					1	2
Pulmonary, F					1			1	1			1	3
Tuberculosis, M	1	2	1	1									3
Non-Pulmonary, F	1						1						2
Anterior Poliomyelitis									1				1
Totals ...	4	6	7	1	2	3	3	3	6	6	2	7	50

Table as required by Ministry of Health, showing Infectious cases and deaths in age groups.

	under 1 year	between 1 and 2	between 2 and 3	between 3 and 4	between 4 and 5	between 5 and 10	between 10 and 15	between 15 and 20	between 20 and 35	between 35 and 45	between 45 and 65	65 years and over	Total
Diphtheria		1	2		1	3	5		2				14
cases													
deaths													
Scarlet Fever					2	4	1	1					8
cases													
deaths													
Pneumonia	2	1	1						2	1	2	1	10
cases													
deaths													
Erysipelas	3		1						1	1	1	1	6
cases													
deaths													
Tuberculosis,						1		2	3	3	1		10
Pulmonary								2					
Non-pulmonary							1	1	2		2		6
cases													
deaths													
Tuberculosis						1		1					4
Anterior Poli-													
omyelitis			1										1
cases													
deaths													
Puerperal Fever													
cases													
deaths													

Two cases of Diphtheria were removed to Isolation Hospital.

Measles.—Measles was epidemic in May, with three deaths—one of these being at the Workhouse Infirmary outside the district. The attendance at High Street Council Schools was reduced to 70 per cent of the roll—at Mount Pleasant 62 per cent. I consulted the County Medical Officer of Health, and we decided not to close the Schools.

Whooping Cough.—Very few cases—none fatal.

Scarlet Fever.—The tables above show the age and time distribution. Of the eight notified cases—none died.

Diphtheria.—Fourteen cases were notified, details of which are shewn below—none died. They occurred as under.

Date	Locality	School	Sanitary defect or source suspected.
Jan.	Pilgrims Cottage Inn, Cradley Forge	None	A Public House on bank of River Stour. Father associated with previous case, also on bank of Stour. Privy Midden.
Feb.	49, Brook Street	None	
Mar.	2, Oak Street	None	
May	117, New Street	None	
June	20, Z Street	None	Overcrowding.
„	20, Z Street	High Street	Overcrowding.
July	8, Merry Hill	Mount Pleasant	Foul Drain.
Sept.	8, Merry Hill	Mount Pleasant	Foul Cistern, Previous case in July.
„	3, Talbot Street	Mount Pleasant	Privy Midden.
„	16, Church Street	High Street	Foul ditch—Overcrowding.
Oct.	18, Oak Street	High Street	Smell from stagnant canal water.
„	52, Saltwells Road	None	Diphtheria in same family 1923.
„	35, Sheffield Street	High Street	Playmate of previous case.
„	9, Oak Street	High Street	Bought fruit from 18, Oak Street.

As usual the cases were scattered in such a manner that there could have been no direct association in many of them, except at school. The frequency of foul water courses, ditches and drains is worthy of note. The milk supply was scrutinised.

Bacteriological swabs were taken both at home and school but except for the case at Oak Street, no positive swabs were reported

from the schools. There was a suspicion that this patient, who did not manifest any real illness, was a carrier of the disease, and strict isolation was enforced until repeated negative swabs were obtained. Serum treatment was refused by the patient. No further case was reported till February, 1926.

The two cases in January and February were removed to Hospital, owing in the one, to gross carelessness in exposing the infected child in the public house; in the other to the fact that the eye was seriously involved, and the home conditions were very unfit for nursing and isolation. Both recovered.

For some years I have followed the plan of keeping Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases at home, relying on such isolation as can be there obtained. Quarry Bank is too poor to carry out any complete scheme of Hospital Isolation, even if that were desirable, and I appeal to tables on page 10 in justification of my action. The cases of Scarlet Fever are less numerous, and less grave year by year. The Diphtheria cases are more numerous, but I am satisfied that these figures do not accurately represent the facts. Bacteriological tests detect, and cause to be notified, many cases which formerly would have been overlooked, or passed as chronic Catarrh of the throat or nose. That only one case has died since 1919, is due to the extreme mildness of the attacks and the general and prompt use of Antidiphtheritic Serum.

My views on this subject have received striking support in a paper read by the Medical Officer of Wallasey, in January 1926. I give the following extracts.

“Many of the cases removed to Hospital now-a-days are never ill at all, and do not warrant the expense incurred by isolating them in Hospital. Segregation of cases in Hospital does not seem to have been accompanied by any change for the better in the type of disease. I think we must admit that the conveyance of cases of Scarlet Fever to Hospital cannot have much influence in stopping the spread of the infection. The longer the cases were kept in Hospital the more return cases occurred. With regard to Diphtheria the position is much the same as with Scarlet Fever. We recognise that Isolation Hospitals are indispensable—when the cases occur in places where infection may spread by means of food, *e.g.*, milk shops, or of cases where overcrowding exists.”

These are the opinions of a recognised authority supported by facts and figures obtained from a very large sanitary area. The Council will recognise that they coincide very closely with those I have advocated for Quarry Bank for at least seven or eight years. The time may arrive when the type of diseases will become unfavorably modified, and the Isolation Hospital be the principal weapon of defence, but until such time, what surplus funds there are

could be used to better purpose in rectifying bad drainage, housing, overcrowding, and various other sanitary faults, at whose door much of the infectious and non-infectious illness at present lies.

Smallpox.—In April a medical attendant reported a case suspicious of Smallpox in the Birch Coppice. It proved on investigation to be only severe Chickenpox.

No case of Enteric Fever, Encephalitis Lethargica, Malaria, Dysentery or Trench Fever was notified.

Influenza was epidemic in January and February with four deaths, and School attendance was reduced by 20 per cent. Respiratory Diseases, including Pneumonia, caused rather more than the average fatality.

The only case of Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis), was that of a girl in Mears Coppice, aged $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, who two months previously had had Measles.

Puerperal Fever.—The one case reported, died. Both the Doctor and the Nurse in attendance had a clean record as to previous Maternity Cases, and the home conditions were satisfactory. Infection followed as the result of complications. The usual precautions as to disinfection were observed.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—No case was notified.

Pemphigus Neonatorum.—The disease known by this name is in future to be called Inpetigo Contagiosa. A death was certified from this cause at 90, Victoria Road, in March. Further, a child died at Dunn's Bank, in June 1924, with a skin disease strongly suspicious of being also Inpetigo Contagiosa. Outside your district several deaths have been reported during recent years. I wrote the County Medical Officer on the point, and he kindly furnished me with his views, and those of other reliable authorities. It is due to a germ, the infection usually entering through the navel, soon after birth, and may be conveyed by midwives or others in attendance—or it may be contracted from other cases of ordinary Inpetigo in the home. The School records were searched as to the incidence of the disease among school children, but Quarry Bank school children were not found to be specially affected. The disease is practically harmless to other than newly born children, but among the latter it is very fatal. The Midwives have been instructed on this point.

Disinfection.—After Infectious Diseases the bedroom, bedding and clothing are treated with Sulphur Vapor. In certain cases the steam disinfector is used.

There is no special facility for dealing with Verminous persons, and none have come to my notice. If they should, they would be referred to the Poor Law Authorities for treatment at the Workhouse.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1			1					
5	1		1					
10			1					
15		2		1		2		1
20	1					2		
25		2						
35		2						
45		1			1			
65 & upwards		1				1		
Total ...	2	8	3	1	1	5		1
14				7				

Notification of Tuberculosis.—The only case not notified among persons dying of Tuberculosis, had come recently to live in the district, and had been in a Sanatorium just prior to death. Notification is reasonably prompt, and no case of wilful omission has been detected.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis), Regulations 1925
No Tuberculous employee has been found engaged in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.—No Tuberculous case has arisen in which compulsory removal to hospital was needed.

Tuberculosis Register.—The cases on the Register in Quarry Bank were :—

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
On Dec. 31st, 1924	18	10	28	4	11	15
On Dec. 31st, 1925	23	16	39	5	11	16

Tuberculosis Treatment	} These matters are now removed from the purview of the Medical Officers of Health's Report, as they are administered by the County Authorities of Stafford.
Venerial Diseases	
Maternity and Child Welfare	

I have received Monthly Statements from the County Council of work done in the Maternity and Child Welfare Department in Quarry Bank, and in consequence much useful information as to insanitary conditions discovered by their nurses.

Infantile Diseases.—A table is given under Vital Statistics shewing the causes of deaths of children during their first year. Comments bearing on this have been made at various points in the body of the report. There is no doubt that Welfare Clinics have been most useful in the prevention of infant diseases.

Dental Clinic.—Representations have been informally made that a Dental Clinic will shortly be available for Quarry Bank School Children. To reach its maximum value it should be in Quarry Bank. Arrangements were made in November between the Staffordshire Insurance Committee and the District Council, for a public lecture on Dental Hygiene, early in 1926.

District Nursing.—There must be need of the services of a district Nurse in an industrial district of over 8,000 population—at least part time, and it is to be regretted that the one-time flourishing Nursing Committee has now ceased to exist.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.—Following the custom of previous Annual Reports, the Sections for which your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Brunskell, is responsible, are embodied in the text of my Report. He has furnished much of the statistical work, and for this and other assistance I wish here to acknowledge my indebtedness to him.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council and its Officers for help always readily given in the performance of my duties.

Yours faithfully,

T. M. TIBBETTS,

Medical Officer of Health.

May 8th, 1926.